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from Chun, cities of Hadarezer, brought David very much brass, wherewith Solomon made the brazen sea, and the pillars and the vessels of brass."

These two pillars, erected in honor of the one God of Israel, were not as "high as the sky," but, according to *II Chronicles*, iii. 15, were thirty-five cubits in height, with capitals of five cubits more.

The usual statement as to the background of this poem is that Browning here contrasts the present desolation of the Roman Campagna with its ancient magnificence. But "all the mountains topped with temples," and the hundred-gated marble wall on which twelve might easily walk abreast are details which suggest a composite picture of Babylon and Jerusalem, fused by the poet's imagination.

Love Among the Ruins was first printed in the *Dramatic Romances* of 1855, along with the revised version of *Saul*. The two poems bear on the same general theme. *Love Among the Ruins* teaches that vital human love is better than all the dead glory of the past; and *Saul*, that finite human love implies infinite divine love. Browning must have composed the two almost simultaneously. *Saul* is the poet's reflection on David the obscure shepherd boy. Is *Love Among the Ruins* a sad reflection on David the victorious but unhappy King?

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THE RIMES OF STEFAN GEORGE

In his article on George¹ Mr. E. H. Zeydel uses the phrase "his more recent work" in reference to *Der siebente Ring*. My statement: "His most recent volume consists largely of poems in unrimed lines of five feet, mostly iambic pentameters,"² has reference to *Der Stern des Bundes*,³ published after the volume examined by Mr. Zeydel.

I did not mean to suggest that George has "abandoned" the rimed couplet. Yet the fact remains that there are only eleven rimed poems in the hundred included in *Der Stern des Bundes*, the remainder being in blank verse and unrimed iambic tetrameter, with occasional trochees and anapæsts. The rimed poems appear at regular intervals. The *Eingang* consists of eight unrimed poems and a ninth in rimed couplets. Thereafter every tenth poem is in rime; one in couplets, two with a more elaborate rime scheme and the remainder in quatrains. At the end there is a *Schlusschor* in

¹ *M. L. N.*, February, 1922.

² *M. L. N.*, January, 1919, p. 3.

³ Berlin, 1913; 4th ed., 1920.

unrimed trochaic tetrameter, rounded off by a quatrain (*abab*). It might be interesting to examine the relation of rime to subject matter in this work.

Since *Der Stern des Bundes* George has published, as far as I know, only the volume *Der Krieg* (Berlin, 1917), which I have not yet seen.

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TAYLOR STARCK.

A LETTER TO RICHARDSON FROM EDWARD YOUNG

A curious inaccuracy in Mrs. Barbauld's editing of the *Correspondence of Samuel Richardson* (London, 1804) is made evident by what is apparently the original of a letter from Edward Young to Richardson, preserved in the library of Wellesley College. Dated "Ap. 9. 1751," the first half of the letter is nearly identical with the first half of a letter Mrs. Barbauld reprints under date of April 30, 1758. The latter portions of the two letters are quite dissimilar.

The autograph letter in the Wellesley College collection reads as follows:

Dear Sr

I gratefully accept ye Kind Offer you made me of being under yr. Roof for some days while I transact an Affair in Town. I shall be with you on Moonday next, God willing. That God willing, who this moment sets a thousand Agents at work for my Sake, of wh. I know nothing, thogh they are all within me; & shd any one of ym cease to work, it wd prove my instant Death. I mean ye Animal Functions. You know how merry shd I make ye World, shd they hear me say,—“If it please God, I will rise from my Seat,—or, “I will open my Mouth” or, “if it please God I will set Pen to paper, &c: So Ignorant are our Wise ones both of God & Man. And now, Sr¹ wh is ye most respectable Being, a Monarch on his Throne, or a Beggar's Brat at ye Breast, whose Ignorance is not its Crime?

You see I treat you very familiarly, by permitting every thought yt rises in my mind to run thro my Pen to ye Interruption of those Thoughts of yrs, for wh I hope ye World will soon be ye Better. Mrs Hallows salutes you and yrs. I am Dear Sr

Yr much Obligd

Humble Srvt

Ap. 9. 1751.

E Young

The letter Mrs. Barbauld reprints (*Correspondence*, II, 48-9) is headed "April 30, 1758." Except for two slight verbal changes easily attributable to the carelessness of the copyist, this letter is identical with the Wellesley autograph letter to the end of the

¹ There is a line drawn through the words, "And now Sr."

² The variations are as follows: In the printed letter the third sentence reads "*has* a thousand Agents at work"; though in the autograph the word is not clear, I believe Young wrote *sets* instead of *has*. In the sentence, "So Ignorant are our Wise ones both of God and Man," Mrs. Barbauld omits *both*.